(c) what steps have the Tobacoo Board taken to be alert to such situations which affect Andhra tobacoo farmers;

(d) whether the help of the industry and farmers' associations has been sought in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir. The major areas of collaboration of Tobacoo Board with C.T.R.I. and other organisations in Andhra Pradesh are:

(i) Conducting training programmes to field staff and tobacco growers in improved production technology at different phases of tobacco growth under different Auction platforms.

(ii) Study tours of farmers to acquaint themselves with the latest practices of tobacoo cultivation.

(iii) Conducting on-farm trials to de-monstrate latest methods of crop production and varietal trials to test the performance of pipe-line varieties under field conditions.

(iv) Distribution of literature on improved package of practice to the farmers in the form of Booklets, pamphlets and news items.

(v) Supply of pure seed of high yielding varieties to the needy farmers.

(vi) Monitoring the pesticide residue levels in different areas and suggesting suitable measures to eliminate the residues.

(vii) Technical guidance for implementing Quality and Yield improvement programmes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Trade Centres in Foreign Countries

1263. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) are planning to establish more centres in foreign countries within two years;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) the details of the centres located in foreign countries, with details of their field of operation and the number of staff at such international offices of ITPO?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ITPO in line with the recommendation made by a Committee of its Board of Directors, set up to analyse the functioning of the foreign offices of the organisation, are planning to set up a new office in Latin America. The new office would undertake trade promotion activities in the potential markets of that region.

(c) Overseas offices of ITPO are located in New York, Frankfurt, Tokyo, Moscow and Dubai. Each foreign office is manned by Resident Director.

These foreign offices are providing a range of marketing and export promotion services to the interested parties such as trade fairs, contact promotion programmes, market surveys, India Promotion with Department Stores, product catalogue display, assisting trade delegations, commercial information & market intelligence, publicity through trade & techni-cal magazines, introduction of products in new markets etc.